

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 14026

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, EAD, ET, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KIFLE

1. SECRETARY MET FOR 40 MINUTES WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KIFLE, WHO ACCOMPANIED BY ETHIOPIAN PERMREP HAMID AND ETHIOPIAN CHARGE TO US MEKBIB. DEPUTY ASST. SECY. MULCAHY, AF/E DIRECTOR COOTE AND NSC STAFF MEMBER HORAN ALSO PRESENT. ATMOSPHERE THROUGHOUT DISCUSSION WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL. KIFLE, WHO EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT SEEING SECRETARY AGAIN, WAS APPRECIATIVE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH SECRETARY.
2. KIFLE EXPLAINED THAT CHANGES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN ETHIOPIA DURING PAST SIXTEEN MONTH ARE ESSENTIALLY INTERNAL, AIMED AT MODERNIZATION AND SOCIAL REFORM, AND NOT IN ANY WAY DIRECTED AGAINST US OR ANY OTHER FOREIGN ELEMENT. ETHIOPIAN WANTS TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY TIES WITH TRADITIONAL FRIENDS SUCH AS U.S., BUT AT SAME TIME IS MOVING TO BALANCE ITS RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES. PARTICULARLY IN AREA OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ETHIOPIA NEEDS AID AND TRADE RELATIONS WITH MORE COUNTRIES.

3. SECRETARY EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY FOR EPMG'S EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE THE COUNTRY, AND RECONFIRMED U.S. DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL AS LONG AS EPMG TOOK NO ACTIONS
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WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT U.S.

4. KIFLE THEN CONVEYED HIS GOVT.'S DESIRE FOR MAINTAINING CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. AND EXPRESSED HIS GOVT.'S GRATITUDE FOR CONTINUED ASSISTANCE USG HAS PROVIDED IN AREAS OF DROUGHT RELIEF AND MILITARY SUPPORT. EPMG ESPECIALLY APPRECIATIVE OF U.S. RESPONSIVENESS TO ETHIOPIA'S DEFENSE NEEDS. NEGOTIATIONS DURING PAST SEVERAL MONTHS HAD NOW PRODUCED RESULTS. VARIOUS ITEMS HAVE ARRIVED OR BEGUN TO ARRIVE AND DELIVERY DATES FOR OTHER ITEMS HAVE BEEN SET.

5. FORMIN MADE FOLLOWING POINTS UNDER INSTRUCTION:

(A) HE ASKED FOR SECRETARY'S PERSONAL INTERVENTION IN SPEEDING UP DECISION FOR MUCH LARGER AMOUNT OF DROUGHT ASSISTANCE FROM USG. WHILE NOT MENTIONING ANY SPECIFIC AMOUNT, HE CLAIMED THAT ETHIOPIA'S TOTAL NEEDS WERE 1.5 TO 2 MILLION METRIC TONS OF GRAIN.

(B) HE ASKED THAT USG CONTINUE TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE IN FURNISHING MILITARY ASSISTANCE. IN PARTICULAR HE HOPED THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF CREDIT ASSISTANCE IN FY 1976. (FYI WE WILL BE DISCUSSING BOTH OF THESE ITEMS AT WORKING LEVELS WHEN KIFLE VISITS WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK.)

(C) HE SAID THAT PMAC INSTRUCTED HIM TO MAKE POINT TO SECRETARY THAT OUR COMMON INTERESTS IN AREA (E.G. FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION ON HIGH SEAS AND THROUGH STRATIS, PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF ENTIRE REGION AND ABSENCE OF SUPER-POWER RIVALRY) PROVIDED FIRM BASIS FOR CONTINUING RELATIONS ON PRINCIPLE OF MUTUAL RESPECT.

6. SECRETARY CONFIRMED THAT OUR BASIC POLICY TOWARD ETHIOPIA IS ONE OF FRIENDSHIP AND BEING AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE IN SUCH AREAS AS DROUGHT RELIEF AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE. HE SAID IT WAS REASSURING TO HEAR THAT EPMG WAS PLEASED WITH MILITARY ASSISTANCE WHICH WE ARE PROVIDING.

7. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY SECRETARY RE KAGNEW IV, KIFLE SAID THAT EPMG WAS ATTEMPTING TO KEEP TRACK OF THEIR WHEREABOUTS AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH REQUEST WHICH OUR EMBASSY HAD MADE, WOULD TAKE NO ACTION WHICH WOULD ENDANGER LIVES OF CAPTIVES. SECRETARY REITERATED OUR BASIC POLICY
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OF NOT NEGOTIATING WITH TERRORISTS, BUT ASKED THAT EPMG KEEP US INFORMED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS.
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